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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
26 July 1965

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HIGHLIGHTS

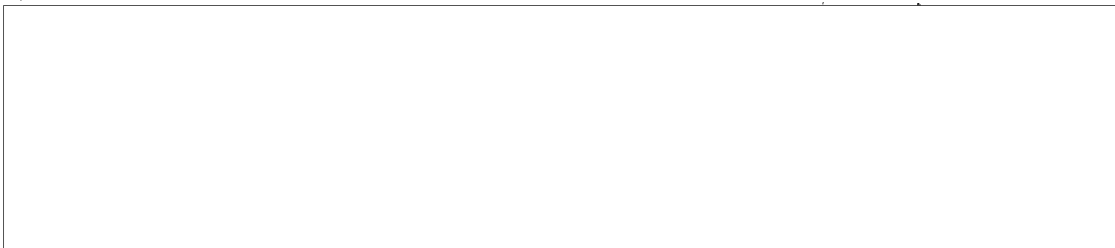
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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
A large-scale airborne/amphibious search-and-destroy operation conducted by US Marines and South Vietnamese troops yesterday on a small island near Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province has inflicted significant losses on the Viet Cong (Para. 1). Two large-scale ARVN search-and-destroy operations in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces have scored favorable results (Para. 2). Additional details have been received on two Viet Cong mortar and recoilless rifle attacks against two government outposts in Gia Dinh Province on 24 July (Para. 3). Officially confirmed Communist military activity for 24 July includes armed attacks in Quang Nam and Dinh Tuong provinces, and several mortar assaults against district towns and government troop concentrations (Paras. 5-6).

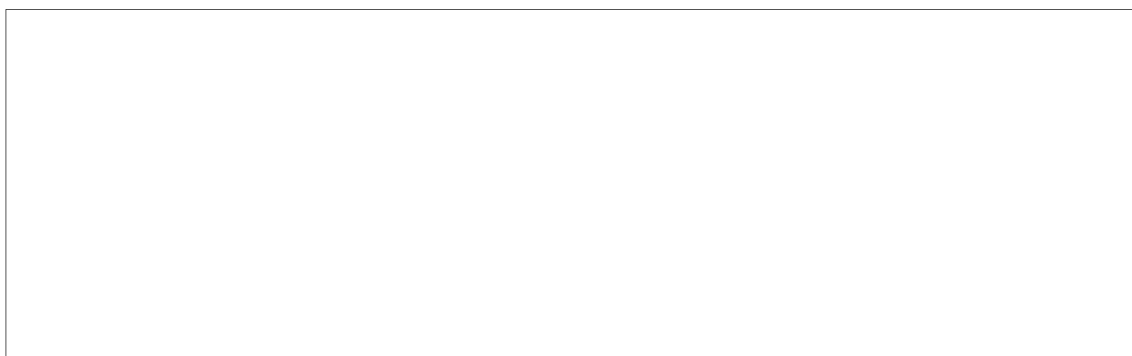
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II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
Nothing of significance has been reported.



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V. Communist Political Developments: **Nothing of significance to report.**

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SOUTH VIETNAM



I. MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. US Marines and South Vietnamese commandos joined forces yesterday in a large-scale airborne/amphibious search-and-destroy operation against a Viet Cong troop concentration on a small island seven miles north of Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province. Supported by US Army helicopters and Vietnamese Navy junks, the combined operational forces reportedly swept across the island on two fronts, killing 25 Viet Cong and capturing 33. No friendly casualties were incurred.

2. Two large-scale ARVN search-and-destroy operations in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai provinces have achieved favorable results. In the Quang Tin engagement, government forces, with close air support, killed 26 Viet Cong, captured 24, and seized five weapons in a ground sweep conducted yesterday near the provincial capital of Tam Ky. In addition, five secret tunnels were destroyed and five tons of salt seized. In the action at Quang Ngai, 27 guerrillas were killed (13 by supporting helicopter fire), three captured, and 110 suspects detained as the result of a one-day ground probe conducted by battalion-strength elements of the 2nd ARVN Division on 23 July. Government casualties in both engagements were described as light.

3. MACV has confirmed earlier press reports of two Viet Cong attacks against government outposts in Gia Dinh Province on 24 July.

Armed with mortars and recoilless rifles, the guerrilla force inflicted combined friendly losses of 31 killed, 22 wounded, and 31 weapons and three radios captured. Both outposts sustained heavy physical damage, with several bunkers and watchtowers reported demolished. Enemy losses are unknown.

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4. According to late press reports, the Vietnamese police last night shot and killed a Viet Cong agent in the act of hanging an antigovernment poster in one of Saigon's main market places. The poster reportedly bore a Viet Cong flag and the slogan "Oppose the imperialist American and South Vietnamese governments, and military service."

5. MACV's military report for 24 July shows 96 Communist - initiated incidents, 15 of which occurred during the 24-hour reporting period. In Quang Nam Province, an unknown number of Viet Cong placed 81-mm. mortar fire on the district town of Thuong Duc and attacked three Popular Forces platoons on a search-and-destroy mission nearby. Friendly casualties at the district town were three wounded, while losses sustained by the Popular Forces units were placed at six killed, six wounded, and 28 missing with their weapons. In Dinh Tuong Province, Communist guerrillas simultaneously attacked two Popular Forces outposts and mortared the district town of Giao Duc, resulting in combined government losses of ten killed, 12 wounded, two missing, and 13 weapons captured. In addition, two steel bridges were mined and destroyed.

6. Additionally, on 24 July, guerrilla-- directed 60- and 81-mm. mortar fire was directed against district towns in Quang Ngai and Phu Bon provinces and against ARVN troop concentrations and outposts in Long An and Chuong Thien provinces. In Hau Nghai Province, the Viet Cong fired grenades on a paramilitary outpost, killing two government defenders and wounding 11. Elsewhere, acts of terrorism against the population, small-arms harassing fire actions, mine detonations against civilian and military personnel, and sabotage against land lines of communication remained widespread throughout the countryside.

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7. Combat air operations were flown by US and Vietnamese aircraft against Viet Cong troop concentrations, base camps, supply points, river craft, and training and staging areas throughout the four corps tactical zones of South Vietnam during 22-24 July, with pilots reporting an estimated total of 226 guerrillas killed, 528 structures destroyed, 288 damaged, and eight sampans destroyed.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

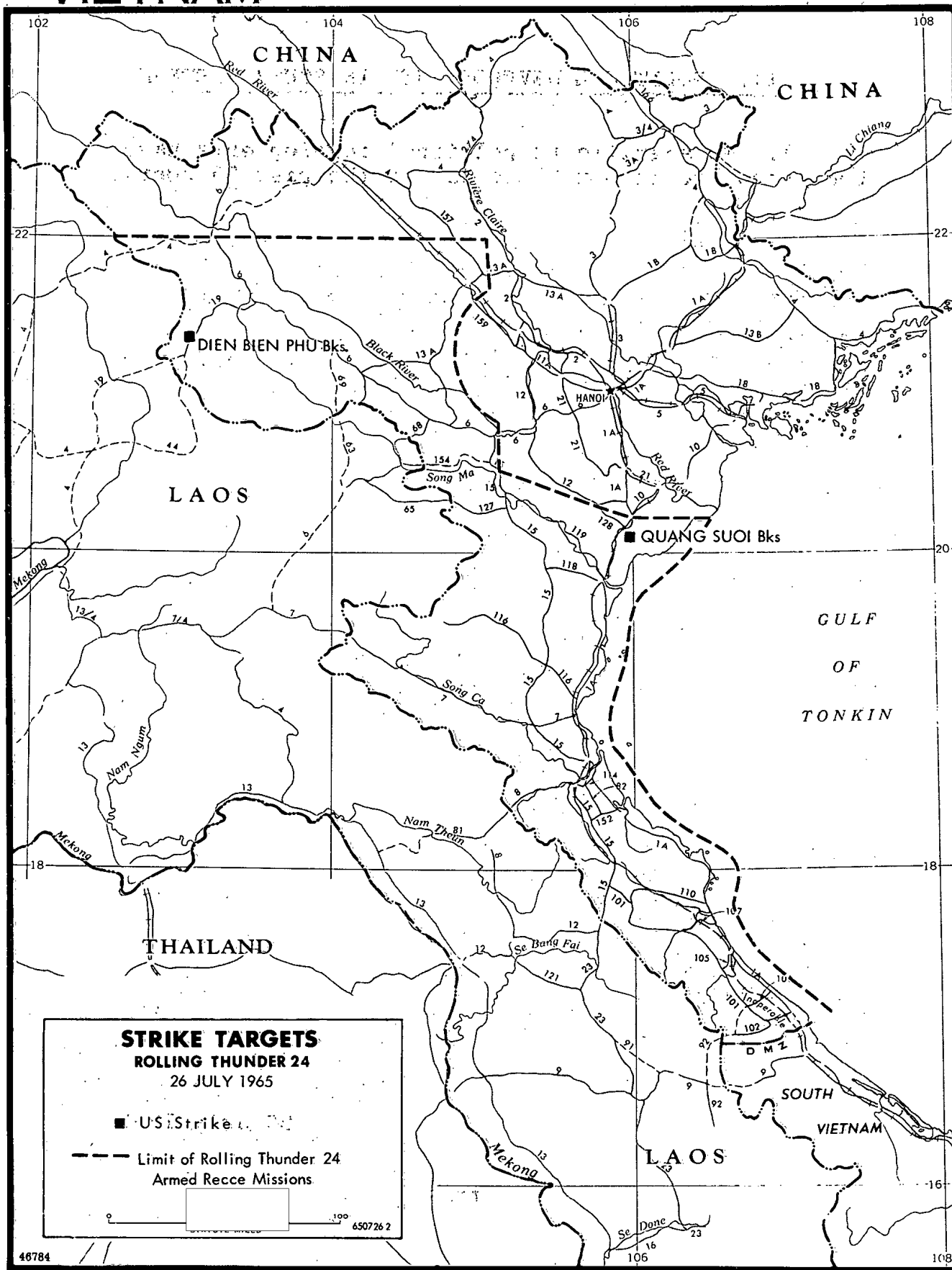
1. No significant political developments have been reported in South Vietnam in the past 24 hours.

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NORTH VIETNAM



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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. **Nothing of significance to report.**

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